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Review of From the Pecos to the Powder: A Cowboy's Autobiography.

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knew how to spin a tale; his yarns, mostly brief, are told in to-the-point detail, down to the names and manners of horses he rode and quirks and quirks of the men he worked with. He watched everything, from domestic quarrels and camp-cook rivalries to range accidents and saloon riots, with a merry storyteller's eye; he reports fights and shootings without making them epic or himself heroic.

A must-read for the buff, this book can best serve the historian as a lens. Bob Kennon didn't hide his prejudices; Marcus Daly, one of Montana's copper kings, was "wonderful people," and early Texas was "a land of vast expanses, free land, countless ways to make money." His scorn, hard to find, he saved for "misfits and weaklings who turned back from the task of building new states out of the wilderness." Here's a tough, vivid West where pain is told with humor, and our past's ambiguity is obscured by the dust of a hard ride.

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From the Pecos to the Powder: A Cowboy's Autobiography. By Bob Kennon as told to Ramon F. Adams. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. Foreword, illustrations, maps, index. xvi + 251 pp. \$11.95.

This paperback edition of a twenty-five-year-old classic is packed with anecdotes from the ranch country of Texas (1890-97) and Montana (1897-1929). Bob Kennon, who got his schooling in the saddle as a working cowboy, evidently